GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4418
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
AVAILABILITY OF SEEDS AND FERTILISERS
Gorakhnath Shri ;Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of seeds and fertilizers to the farmers at reasonable rates during the sowing season;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to the small and marginal farmers for the purchase of seeds and fertilisers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Assistance for infrastructure, seed production and distribution are provided to states to ensure availability of seeds to the farmers at reasonable rate during sowing season under different crop development programmes/schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The details of assistance / subsidy for seed production and distribution provided are in Annexure.

The Government has taken necessary action to ensure availability of fertilizers in the country through indigenous production as well as through imports to bridge the gap between indigenous production and assessed requirement. The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of fertilizer under the concessional scheme is declared by the Government which remains constant from February 2002. The MRP is lower than the cost of the fertilizer as such the farmers are getting fertilizer at reasonable price.